

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Hammond Trail Network Taking Shape

129th Street project nearing completion; work begun on Wolf Lake South Park Trail.

Crown Point, IN (July 24, 2012) – Under broiling summer heat, the expansion and improvement of the network of shoreline trails in Northwest Indiana continues. In Hammond, work is about three-quarters of the way done on the 129th Street Trail, which will serve as the entrance to Wolf Lake Memorial Park. This pathway will be connected to the Wolf Lake South Park Trail, which broke ground last week and is scheduled to be finished by November.

When complete, the two trails will stretch for more than a mile, and connect to the Forsythe Park Trail in Hammond and the Lake George Trail, which runs all the way to the Lakefront Park in Whiting via the newly opened Pedestrian Bridge spanning Indianapolis Blvd.

In addition to improving connectivity between business districts, recreational areas and communities, the trail projects also provide needed construction jobs to the region. Griffith-based Walsh & Kelly, Inc. is responsible for the \$580,268 129th Street trail, Hasse Construction Co., Inc. (Munster) built the \$4 million Pedestrian Bridge and Dyer Construction Company, Inc. of Dyer was awarded the contract for the \$1 million Wolf Lake South Park Trail. All three projects were designed by SEH of Indiana (Munster).

Remaining work on the 129th Street trail includes crossing mats and rail replacement at a railroad crossing, landscaping, and bench and bike rack installation.

HAMMOND TRAILS ADD 1

The trails and other projects at Wolf Lake such as the Pavilion and Aquatic Center are being funded in part by a \$31.5 million grant from The Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority (RDA). Hammond has provided an additional \$22.8 million for a total impact of more than \$54 million.

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About the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority

Established in 2005 through a bipartisan effort including Governor Mitchell E. Daniels, Congressman Peter J. Visclosky, key state legislators, and local elected officials, the RDA is quasi-governmental development entity entrusted to make public investment decisions within a regional framework for supporting catalytic infrastructure projects and inducing private sector investment. Its mission is to be a catalyst for transforming the economy and quality of life for Northwest Indiana. For more information, visit www.in.gov/rda and www.rdatransformation.com.